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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Darren James Zellak  
CONNECTOR COUPLING/DECOUPLING TOOL  
Serial No. 10/673,116  
Filed 09/29/2003

} Before the Examiner  
} Paul T. Chin  
} Art Unit 3652  
} Atty. Docket RI92403

Hon Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 10/05/2005

Sir:

Responsive to the Office action mailed 10/05/2005, applicant provisionally withdraws Claim 26 from consideration, but request reconsideration of the examiner's holding that this claim is drawn to non-elected specie.

As applicant understands the instant Office action, the examiner contends that Claim 26 reads only on the Figure 8 embodiment, which was not elected. Applicant contends that this Claim 26 reads on the elected embodiment. In the application, the following statements are made:

"In an embodiment, the connector tool is capable of handling a SC fiber optic cable connector. In another embodiment, the connector tool is capable of handling an electrical cable connector. In both embodiments, the connector tool is able to efficiently handle the installation into and removal of the component from its port, with ease and without damage to the connector or port. "  
(Last 3 sentences, Par. 4).

"Cable slot 36 accommodates the cable as the cable connector is handled by the connector tool."  
(Second sentence, Par. 16). "It (Cable slot 36) merely needs to provide sufficient space for accommodating the cable." (Next to last sentence, Par. 16).

"In a preferred embodiment, the cable slot of the gripper sufficiently overlaps the cable channel of the sleeve to provide sufficient space for the cable to move freely as the sleeve slides back and forth along the gripper." (Lines 10-13, Par. 17).

Claim 26 recites:

"In the connector tool recited in Claim 25, wherein said gripper has sufficient space in said

cable slot and cable channel to permit said cable to slide with said gripper in said sleeve without binding said connector in said gripper."

Applicant submits that this claim does not read on the non-elected specie, but in fact it read on the elected specie and is not limited to cover only the round cross-section embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 8. The application language does not limit this feature to the embodiment of Fig. 8 having the round cross-section, but the elements of this claim are desired when any kind of cable (whether fiber optic or electrical cable) is attached to a connector, as the gripper must have sufficient space in the cable slot and cable channel to permit the cable to slide with the gripper in the sleeve without binding the connector in the gripper.

The inclusion of the sentence in Par. 17 that "See Figure 8 for an embodiment having a rounded cross section." could be confusing because of its position, and applicant (or perhaps the examiner by examiner's amendment) could cancel this misunderstood language or move it to the end of Par. 18, as it is not intended or apparent from the disclosure that the structure must have a round cross section to permit the cable to slide with the gripper in the sleeve, as the drawings clearly show this cable slot 36 as capable of handling a cable when the connector 22 is installed.

Applicant submits herewith a new Listing of Claims which includes Claim 26, modified in accordance with the present response. Action on the claims in this case is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully,

  
Martin Faier, Attorney for Applicant

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